

# **Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

09/714,743

Examiner

Yasin M. Barqadle

Applicant(s)

MATSUDA ET AL.

Art Unit

2153

## **-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 12/27/2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,2 and 4-11.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
    1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
  - \* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
    - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

### **Attachment(s)**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)                       |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                | 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment                               |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br>of Biological Material          | 8. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance                         |
|   | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____.  |

### Examiner's Amendment

1. An examiner's amendment to the record is attached. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Matthew T. Ridsdale (Reg. 56,832) On March 14, 2006.

3. In the claims:

- Please amend claims 1,9 to 11 as attached.
- Please cancel claims 3 and 12-15.

### Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Yasin Barqadle whose telephone number is 571-272-3947. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00 AM to 5:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are

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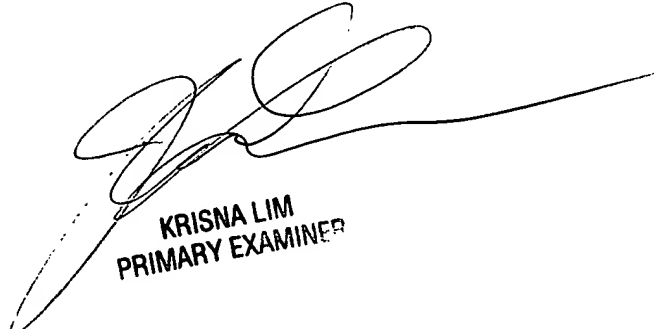
unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Glenn Burgess can be reached on 571-272-3949. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9306 for regular communications and 703-746-7238 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either private PAIR or public PAIR system. Status information for unpublished applications is available through private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

YB

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PRIMARY EXAMINER

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1. (currently amended): A virtual space system having a chat function, comprising:
  - at least two communicatively connected servers; a
  - virtual space control device coupled to the at least two communicatively connected servers, the virtual space control device including:
    - transmission holding means for holding latest position information of a transmitter in a virtual space and transmission region definition information for defining a transmission region as a closed region on one of the at least two communicatively connected servers that includes the transmitter,
    - reception object holding means for holding latest position information of a reception object and reception region definition information for defining a reception region as a closed region on another of the at least two communicatively connected servers that include the reception object; and
  - at least one chat storage file for storing only contents of a chat issued from the transmitter in the reception region or only contents of a chat issued from the transmitter when the reception object enters the transmission region, wherein a reception region use flag information is used to determine whether the reception region is used, and in a case where the reception region use flag information indicates that the reception region is not used, storage of the contents of the chat is made while relation to the reception object holding means which has entered the transmission region is established, and in a case where the reception region use flag information indicates that the reception region is used, the storage is made while relation to the reception object holding means relative to the reception region where the transmitter has entered is established.
2. (previously presented): A virtual space system according to claim 1, wherein the reception object holding means further holds reception region use information indicating whether the reception region is used,

in a case where the reception region use information indicates that the reception region is not used, the at least one chat storage file stores only the contents of the chat issued from the transmitter when the reception object enters the transmission region, and

in a case where the reception region use information indicates that the reception region is used, the at least one chat storage file stores only the contents of the chat issued from the transmitter in the reception region.

3. (canceled).
4. (original): A virtual space system according to claim 1, wherein the transmission region and the reception region are closed regions defined by two-dimensional elements.
5. (original): A virtual space system according to claim 1, wherein the transmission region and the reception region are inner regions of polygonal columns each having a section of a polygon drawn on a horizontal plane in the virtual space.
6. (original): A virtual space system according to claim 1, wherein the transmission region and the reception region are inner regions of segmental columns each having a section of a segment drawn on a horizontal plane in the virtual space.
7. (original): A virtual space system according to claim 1, wherein the transmission region is defined while relation to the latest position information of the transmitter is established, and the reception region is defined while relation to the latest position information of the reception object is established.

8. (original): A virtual space system according to claim 1, further comprising a reception object control device for preparing and controlling the reception object, wherein the latest position information of the reception object and the reception region definition information are set while relation to the reception object is established.
9. (currently amended): A virtual space control device for controlling a virtual space having a chat function, comprising:  
transmission object holding means for holding latest position information of a transmitter in the virtual space and transmission region definition information for defining a transmission region as a closed region on a first server at a side of the transmitter; and  
reception object holding means for holding latest position information of a reception object and reception region definition information for defining a reception region as a closed region on a second server at a side of the reception object, wherein only contents of a chat issued from the transmitter in the reception region or only contents of a chat issued from the transmitter when the reception object enters the transmission region are stored in at least one chat storage file, and wherein a reception region use flag information is used to determine whether the reception region is used, and in a case where the reception region use flag information indicates that the reception region is not used, storage of the contents of the chat is made while relation to the reception object holding means which has entered the transmission region is established, and in a case where the reception region use flag information indicates that the reception region is used, the storage is made while relation to the reception object holding means relative to the reception region where the transmitter has entered is established.
10. (currently amended): A control method of a virtual space having a chat function, comprising the steps of:

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holding latest position information of a transmitter in the virtual space and transmission region definition information for defining a transmission region as closed region defined within a first server;

holding latest position information of a reception object and reception region definition information for defining a reception region as a closed region defined within a second server; and

storing in at least one chat storage file only contents of a chat issued from the transmitter in the reception region or only contents of a chat issued from the transmitter when the reception object enters the transmission region, wherein a reception region use flag information is used to determine whether the reception region is used, and in a case where the reception region use flag information indicates that the reception region is not used, storage of the contents of the chat is made while relation to the reception object holding means which has entered the transmission region is established, and in a case where the reception region use flag information indicates that the reception region is used, the storage is made while relation to the reception object holding means relative to the reception region where the transmitter has entered is established.

11. (currently amended): An information providing medium for providing a program which causes a computer to execute functions of:

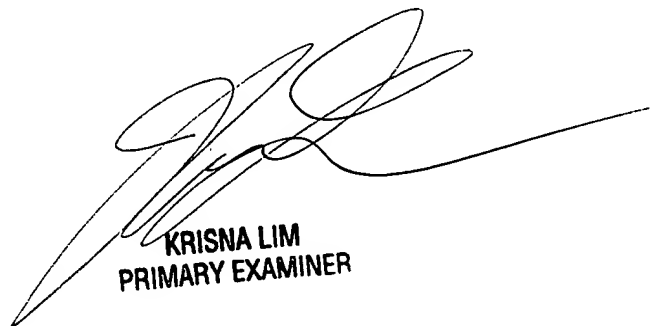
holding latest position information of a transmitter in a virtual space and transmission region definition information for defining a transmission region as a closed region defined within a first server;

holding latest position information of a reception object in the virtual space and reception region definition for defining a reception region as a closed region defined within a second server; and

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storing in at least one chat storage file only contents of a chat issued from the transmitter in the reception region or only contents of a chat issued from the transmitter when the reception object enters the transmission region, wherein a reception region use flag information is used to determine whether the reception region is used, and in a case where the reception region use flag information indicates that the reception region is not used, storage of the contents of the chat is made while relation to the reception object holding means which has entered the transmission region is established, and in a case where the reception region use flag information indicates that the reception region is used, the storage is made while relation to the reception object holding means relative to the reception region where the transmitter has entered is established.

Claims 12 to 15 (canceled).



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